

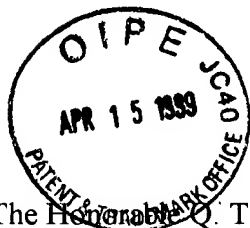


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

Re: PANDEL Cream  
Docket No. 97E-0271



The Honorable Q. Todd Dickinson  
Deputy Assistant Commissioner for  
Patent Policy and Projects  
Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Crystal Park Building 2, Suite 919  
Washington, DC 20231

APR 14 1999

Dear Commissioner Dickinson:

This is in regard to the patent term extension application for U.S. Patent No. 4,290,962 filed by Taisho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The patent claims the human drug product PANDEL Cream (hydrocortisone buteprate), new drug application NDA 20-453.

In the July 16, 1998, issue of the Federal Register (63 Fed. Reg. 38410), the Food and Drug Administration published its determination of this product's regulatory review period, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A). The notice provided that on or before January 12, 1999, 180 days after the publication of the determination, any interested person could file a petition with FDA under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(B)(i) for a determination of whether the patent term extension applicant acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period.

The 180-day period for filing a due diligence petition pursuant to this notice has expired and FDA has received no such petition. Therefore, FDA considers the regulatory review period determination to be final.

Please let me know if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald L. Wilson, Director  
Health Assessment Policy Staff  
Office of Health Affairs

cc: Paul E. White, Jr.  
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